

NEWTON YOUTH COMMISSION Meeting
April 6, 2011 MINUTES
Location: Newton City Hall Cafeteria

Present: Joe De Vito Chair, Richard Dyer, Chris Fortunato, Matt Green, Peter Harrington, Jeff Mace, Ellen Manning, Stephan Ross, John Staulo, Robert Staulo, Kirsten Tuohy, Zachery Eagle
Staff: Ruth Hoshino, School Nurse Leader, Health and Human Services
Guests: Tom Pomeroy
Student Interns: Teekhon Davidoff(NSHS), Jaya Forsythe(NNHS), Issac Rogers, Malik Rud, (NSHS), Zoë Smith(Dana Hall), Jay Sobel (NSHS), Nicole Wantman

The meeting was opened at 7:06 PM and chaired by Joe De Vito.

A vote to accept the minutes of March 2, 2011 was passed.

Treasurer's Report: The budget for FY 2010 operating budget is \$2500. Expenses to date = \$417.94.
Current balance = \$2,082.06

New or Old Business

- **Mayor's Public Service Internship Program Update:**

Meeting with the Mayor

The public service interns met with Mayor Warren last week. They informed the mayor of the work of the teen group and what the goal is for their weekly meetings. They explained the upcoming safety expo at Newton North where they will have a table to promote the group and the work they do. Their plan is to have a room where 15-20 parents can join in a "fishbowl" style discussion (teens in the center with parents surrounding them). The teens will field questions from the parents and discuss it amongst themselves. If no questions are asked, there will be some prepared questions. Additionally, the table at the expo can play the YouTube video of "Teen Voices".

The mayor and the interns discussed the possibility of having parent meetings with a speaker followed by small groups to discuss questions. This model would let adults hear directly from teens and may help parents have discussions with their own kids.

The mayor liked the work of the group and thought it would be a good resource for parents. He will view the YouTube material on his own time. It was a positive meeting with a mayoral endorsement of the teen's work.

So far the YouTube video has closed access. Proper approval is not completed.

The interns have had one live session with a parent. They discussed the topics of: sleepovers and what it's like for a parent to always call a family before letting their teen go to the home.

- **Budget/Program Sponsorship**

The group discussed funding two programs:

- **E-Chug** – this is an interactive web tool designed specifically for high school-age teens to examine and receive feedback on their beliefs and behaviors related to alcohol use. It allows teens to enter responses to questions and statements about alcohol use and, once completed, generates an informative, personalized report based on the information submitted. The plan is to show it to the Prevention/Intervention counselors at the two high schools to see if they think this is a valuable tool. The purchase price would be about \$800 for one year with unlimited use. It would be available to the whole community through advertising, links on various websites and word-of-mouth.

The student interns and the youth commission approved of the program and voted to fund it.

There may be a request to fund leadership training for the intern group.

- **Improbable Players** – this is a performance group that uses theatre to teach about substance abuse prevention. It is interactive and uses a question and answer format. They performed at Newton North last year and were well received. The cost of a performance is \$1450 – the contact person at Improbable Players said there is grant money available so the cost would be half price. The group liked the idea of this program and voted to fund it for Newton South this school year. Ruth will make contact at Newton South to see if they can schedule a performance. Rick will speak with the staff at Improbable Players to confirm the lower cost.

- Annual Youth Service Award

The group voted to present the Annual Youth Service Award to Larry Allen, a Newton North counselor. Ruth will contact Larry to confirm acceptance and to schedule the annual dinner when the award is presented.

- Wise Family Fund raffle donations – On May 5th, an Adult Dance will be taking place at the Knights of Columbus Hall. This is for a Newton family whose son was involved in a serious car accident and is having ongoing treatment and rehabilitation. Any items that can be raffled off to raise money should be dropped off at the Teen Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 4, 2011 at 7 PM

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Hoshino